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REPORT

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE
Week ending the 20th February 1909.

CONTENTS.

Page.

Page

I.—Foreign Politics.

The Anglo-Russian policy of non-intervention in the civil affairs of Persia	203
Complicated policy of England and Russia as regards the affairs in Persia	ib.
Indians forcing their entry into the Transvaal	ib.
Oppression of the Indians in the Transvaal	ib.

II.—Home Administration.

(a)—Police—

Muharram ends peacefully	203
The bomb-throwing at Balgheria	204
Rumour about the quartering of punitive police at several stations on the Eastern Bengal State Railway	ib.
Earthen statues and dolls representing Khudiram	ib.
An anonymous threatening letter	ib.

(b)—Working of the Courts—

The Midnapore bomb case	205
The end of the Baira shooting case	ib.
A suggestion for the adoption of Devnagri script in the Courts of Bihar	206

(c)—Jails—

Nil.

(d)—Education—

Suggestion for the introduction of Devnagri script in the primary classes of schools in Bihar	207
A lampoon on the progress of Female Education	ib.
Protests against Dr. Ashutosh Mukerjee's appointment as President of the Board of Sanskrit Examiners, and that of Dr. Satis Chandra Vidyabhusan as Principal of the Sanskrit College	ib.
Lethargy of the University of Calcutta in publishing text-books and strictures passed by it on schools	ib.

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration—

Contract of the Corporation of Calcutta with Messrs. Clayton and Company	208
Malaria in Jessore	ib.

(f)—Questions affecting the land—

Nil.

(g)—Railways and Communications, including Canals and Irrigation—

Nil.

(h)—General—

The Mussalmans on the Reform Scheme	209
The Indian Reforms	ib.
The Mussalmans and the Reform Scheme	210
The Reform Scheme and the Hindus	ib.
Lord Morley and the Muhammadan Deputation	ib.
A rumour	211
Rumour about the appointment of an Indian Member on the Viceroy's Council	ib.
The rumoured appointment of Dr. Mukerjee to the Viceroy's Executive Council	ib.
The rumour about the appointment of Dr. Ashutosh Mukerjee to the Executive Council	ib.
The rumour about the appointment of an Indian to the Viceroy's Executive Council	ib.
The Reform Scheme and Sir Edward Baker	ib.
The Indian Loan	ib.
Sanction of thirty lakhs of rupees for the relief of the famine-stricken people in Bihar	ib.
Tour of Sir Edward Baker in the Burdwan Division	212
Opposition to the appointment of the new Mutwalli of the Emambari at Hooghly	ib.
Government allowance to clerks in Presidency towns	ib.
Provision for the families of the deportees from Eastern Bengal	ib.
Rumour about Sir Charles Allen's appointment as Chief Secretary to the Government of Bengal	ib.

(h)—General—concluded.

The excise duty on cotton goods ...	213
The separation of the Judicial and the Executive functions ...	ib.
Assault on a Bengali clerk by Gurkha guards ...	ib.
The Viceroy on tour ...	214
The importance of agricultural improvement ...	ib.

III.—LEGISLATION.

The Bengal Excise Bill ...	214
Religious Endowment Bill ...	ib.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

Nil.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

Famine apprehended in the Khulna district ...	214
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VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Hindus and Musalmans ...	215
Defilement of the Queen's statue at Benares ...	ib.
Assault on Sir Lee-Warner... ..	ib.
The assault on Sir William Lee-Warner ...	ib.
Assault on Sir Lee-Warner... ..	ib.
The new spirit in India ...	ib.
The murder of Babu Ashutosh Biswas... ..	216
The murder of Babu Ashutosh Biswas... ..	ib.
The murder of Babu Ashutosh Biswas... ..	217
The Alipur murder ...	ib.
Murder of Babu Ashutosh Biswas ...	ib.
The murder of Babu Ashutosh Biswas... ..	ib.
The murder of Babu Ashutosh Biswas... ..	ib.
Nihilism and education in India ...	ib.
The sin of nihilism ...	218
Ill-treatment of Indians by Anglo-Indians ...	ib.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS—concluded.

Professor Lees Smith on the treatment of Indians by Anglo-Indians ...	219
The Englishmen and bomb-throwers ...	ib.
The rise in the price of food-stuffs ...	ib.
Repressive laws and their effect ...	ib.
"The song of sorrow" ...	ib.

URIYA PAPERS.

Domiciled Bengalis claiming rights and privileges equal to those of the Uriyas ...	221
Free primary education delayed in Bengal ...	ib.
Legal help necessary for those who cannot pay for it ...	ib.
Reflections in connection with Sir Andrew Fraser's speech in the last St. Andrew's dinner ...	ib.
The query of the <i>Madras Mail</i> answered ...	ib.
A mad jackal in Jajpur ...	222
An Obituary notice ...	ib.
The people in Keonghar want an additional Post Office ...	ib.
Price of rice in Garjat States ...	ib.
Thieves as busy as ever in Bhadrak ...	ib.
Price of rice in Jajpur ...	ib.
Improved drains in Puri ...	ib.
Public health in Puri ...	ib.
Prospects of <i>rabi</i> crop in Jajpur ...	ib.
The new telegraphic rates criticised ...	ib.
Small-pox in Bamra ...	ib.
Immigration from the Orissa Garjats due to poverty and ignorance... ..	ib.
Bestowal of the title of Mahamahopadhyaya on Pandit Sadasib Misra approved ...	223
Price of rice at Bhubaneswar ...	ib.
Price of paddy at Jhankar ...	ib.
Mr. Gokhale's observations on the present unrest in India ...	ib.
An enclosed slaughter-house very necessary at Masampur ...	ib.
The latrine-rate a cause of complaint in Kendrapara ...	ib.
Paddy thefts frequent in Kendrapara ...	ib.
Cattle-poisoning in the Cuttack district ...	ib.
Public health in Cuttack ...	ib.
Mr. Govinda Pratsi of Cuttack thanked ...	ib.
The last annual meeting on the Indian National Congress ...	224
The proposed monkey-killing in Puri ...	ib.
A strange tank in the Domepara State ...	ib.

I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

1. Referring to the foreign office communiqué stating that Great Britain and Russia have no intention of departing

The Anglo-Russian policy of non-intervention in the civil affairs of Persia.

from the policy of non-intervention in the internal affairs of Persia, but they are of opinion that the state of affairs imperiously demands the introduction of a practical form of representative government and are, consequently, in view of the danger to their economic interests, exchanging views to enable them to give Persia advice in the above sense, the *Namāi Muqaddas Hablul Matin* [Calcutta] of the 8th February has the following:—

The Persians would be exceedingly indebted to the English and the Russians if they would press forward their views and advice the Shah to open the Parliament, and, if the latter would not listen to them, to tell him that they would retrace their steps (from the scene) and leave the nation and the Shah to their own resources. This would enable the former to work out its own salvation. It is certain that if the two Powers would adopt the policy of non-intervention no other foreign Power would venture to interfere with the internal affairs of Persia. It is necessary, therefore, that their practice should correspond with their precept and not that with the word of neutrality on their lips, they should be affording all possible assistance to the Shah and complicating the situation all the more, as the conduct of the Russian representatives in Persia has been seen to indicate for the last seven months. Now adverting to our oft-repeated statement we must say that want of attention on the part of the English and the Russians has driven the Persians to show their open tendency towards the Germans, the Austrians and the Turks. Under the circumstances the interest of the two Powers lies in their practical adherence to the principle of non-intervention, which would prevent the other Powers from finding an excuse for their own interference, and this, we emphatically repeat, will enable the Persians to remove their enemies from their way within a very short time.

NAMAI MUQADDAS
HABUL MATIN,
Feb. 8th, 1909.

2. The *Namāi Muqaddas Hablul Matin* [Calcutta] of the 8th February observes that if the news about the Anglo-

Complicated policy of England and Russia as regards the affairs in Persia.

Russian advice given to Samsam-us-Saltanat Bakhtiari, who governs Ispahan on behalf of the nation, to improve the situation by recognising the Governor of Teheran, be relied on it contradicts the declaration of the Russians and the English as to their policy of non-intervention in the internal affairs of Persia and discloses their open help to the Shah and want of attention to the rights of the Persians. We hope that Samsam-us-Saltanat will give no consideration to an advice like this, but follow the example of the people of Tabriz who, under a nice sense of honour, have stood up to work out their own salvation.

NAMAI MUQADDAS
HABUL MATIN,
Feb. 8th, 1909.

3. The *Alpanch* [Bankipur] of the 8th February speaks of the foolish-

Indians forcing their entry into the Transvaal.

ness on the part of the Indians who have grown so enamoured of the Transvaal as to try to force their entry into it even after being repeatedly excluded from the Colony.

4. Referring to the oppression of the Indians in the Transvaal, the

Hitvarta [Calcutta] of the 11th February observes that similar treatment of the Boers in India would bring the latter to their senses.

HITVARTA,
Feb. 11th, 1909.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

5. The *Namāi Muqaddas Hablul Matin* [Calcutta] of the 8th February thanks the authorities, specially the Commissioner of Police, on behalf of the Persians in Calcutta, on

Muharram ends peacefully.

NAMAI MUQADDAS
HABUL MATIN,
Feb. 8th, 1909.

account of the peace and order maintained by them at the last Muharram processions.

NAYAK,
Feb. 11th, 1909.

6. Referring to the recent bomb-throwing at a railway train near the Belgharia Station on the Eastern Bengal State Railway, presumably with the object of murdering Mr. Hume who was in the train, the *Nayak* [Calcutta] of the 11th February says that the repeated occurrence of bomb outrages at Belgharia does not speak well for the ability of the police, and that it has lowered the heads of all Bengalis with shame. Assassins and bomb-throwers, who generally kill innocent people only, are no better than cowards and fiends. It is a pity that these cowards and fiends have at last made their appearance in Bengal.

DAINIK CHANDRIKA,
Feb. 15th, 1909.

7. Referring to a rumour about the quartering of a punitive police force at Syamnagar, Khardaha, Belgharia and other stations adjacent to the places from which bombs were thrown on passing trains, on the Eastern Bengal State Railway, the *Dainik Chandrika* [Calcutta] of the 15th February writes:—

It will be a matter of great regret if the rumour turns out to be true, because the innocent villagers know nothing about bomb outrages. Most of them earn their livelihood by service, and remain in Calcutta during the whole day, with the result that they are unable to enquire even after their own relatives. Does the Government think it proper to impose a tax on such people? The real culprits must be punished, but it is not desirable that innocent people should be harassed together with them.

DAINIK CHANDRIKA,
Feb. 15th, 1909.

8. Referring to the rumour that earthen statues and pice-dolls representing Khudiram are soon going to sell in the Calcutta markets, the *Dainik Chandrika* [Calcutta] of the 15th February writes:—

We protest against such things; because if the general public get any opportunity of honouring a murderer, then the young men whose minds are in a palastic state will be incited to commit such crimes. The Government should soon stop the sale even of the pictures of Khudiram, Profulla Chaki, Satyendra Bose and others, and should even punish those who keep these pictures in their houses. We shall fearlessly bring to the notice of the Government any proposal calculated to allay the unrest. Every patriotic man should point out to our youths the true way of doing good to the country.

NAYAK,
Feb. 16th, 1909.

9. The following is a full translation of a paragraph appearing in the *Nayak* [Calcutta] of the 16th February containing an anonymous threatening letter addressed to Panchcowri Babu, editor of the paper:—

AN ANONYMOUS LETTER.

Threat of murdering Panchcowri Babu.

Yesterday (Monday) at dusk a post-card reached the *Nayak* office by post. We publish below *verbatim* the contents of the post-card:—

Hari is (my) refuge,

Monday.

I hereby inform you, Panchoo, the honourable editor of the *Nayak*, that since the death of Ashu Babu, the manner in which you have been writing against the revolutionists is so full of hatred, that if you do so again, your death at their hands is certain. I give you to understand as well as all other native newspaperwallas that if, again, they should find fault with any of the deeds of the revolutionists, they should act with (the consciousness of) impending death. Never think that the revolutionists will forgive their calumniator, be he a *swadeshi* leader or preacher. You hate Charn because the revolutionists are very few in number and poor. Cannot a poor man be

a revolutionist? It is life that is great and not money; Panchcowri, know this. As long as the revolutionists will last, they will continue thus to lay down their lives by killing the enemies of the country. They know nothing of the results, good or bad. They are simply biding their time. Never think that the gospel preached by the *Yugantar* will fail. The *feringhi* merchant is powerless to check its course. Preparations for the awakening only are being made, and nothing more than that. The *poofa* proper is yet to come. Charu Chandra has done an excellent act. Learned fools like you have no sympathy. But those who are men, have conveyed their sympathy with Charu Chandra's deed to us. We will kill the enemies of the country first, and then we will kill the *feringhis*. Therefore be careful in your writings. Let us now see whether you accept (our) words. Concluded.

One of the Revolutionists.

To

THE EDITOR OF "*Nayak*,"

35, Garanhatta Street,

(Local).

From the post-mark on the letter, it appears that it was posted at the Simla Post-office. From the writing it seems that it was written by an uneducated man, that is, by a man who is utterly ignorant of either Bengali or English. This unique letter we have carefully preserved.

(b)—*Working of the Courts.*

10. Under the heading "A bolt from the blue" the *Sonar Bharat* [Howrah] of the 6th February writes:—

SONAR BHARAT,
Feb. 6th, 1909.

The Midnapore bomb case.

Nobody ever dreamt that with the announcement of the Reform Scheme, so many men from the two Bengals would be banished; nor could any man imagine that the re-assuring speech of Sir Edward Baker in Council last week, would be followed by the hurling of a thunderbolt on the heads of the three young men of Midnapore. The authorities indeed promised to confer new rights on the people, and made speeches pleasant to the ears; but the question is how far the soothing effect of those speeches on the minds of the people will be lasting in the light of the fearful spectacle before them.

The terrible sentences passed upon the three youths, Santosh, Jogjiban and Surendra, have staggered the whole country. Were they really guilty? Supposing that the Judge really believed them to be guilty, would the British Empire in India have disappeared in the course of a single night, if lighter sentences had been passed? We have said more than once, and we repeat, that the history of the Midnapore bomb case would have been different, if Sir Andrew Fraser had personally enquired into the truth or otherwise of the most serious statements made by the police, instead of being "morally convinced" of their truth on the one-sided testimony of interested parties. If the administration of Sir Andrew Fraser was a failure, it is because he had no control over his subordinates. But the present Lieutenant-Governor is known to be made of sterner stuff, and we, therefore, expect to get justice from His Honour.

11. Referring to the conviction of and sentence passed upon the accused in the Baira shooting case, the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 10th February writes:—

DAILY HITAVADI,
Feb. 10th, 1909.

The end of the Baira shooting case.

Most people doubt whether Mr. DeMonte fired merely in self-defence. Mr. DeMonte said in his cross-examination that when he first saw the rioters he did not ask them to go away from his place. By way of explaining this statement, he said in re-examination that

he could not ask the rioters to go away owing to the great noise. Is this a reasonable explanation? He admitted in cross-examination that when he fired the first shot, the crowd was at a distance of 35 to 40 cubits from him. There was, therefore, no immediate danger to his person. It is not in evidence that brickbats were thrown in large quantities. How is it, then, that the shot was fired in self-defence when the crowd was at a distance of about 40 cubits? Mr. DeMonte said in cross-examination that on the day of the occurrence he had only one or two cartridges with him. Can it be believed that he used his last cartridge, his only means for self-defence, when the rioters were yet 35 cubits from him? He further said that he had 135 coolies on the spot at the time of the riot. Why then did he make use of the gun without first trying to disperse the 70 or 80 rioters with the help of these 135 men? The fact is that there is nothing to show that the use of the gun was indispensably necessary for self-defence. When, after the second shot, the crowd dispersed, Mr. DeMonte ought never to have omitted sending information to the thana, terribly alarmed as he had been by the occurrence, and as he could not be certain whether the rioters would not attack him again. But Mr. DeMonte said that he did not send information to the thana because he did not expect that a prompt enquiry would be held. Is this a satisfactory explanation of his conduct?

After the disturbance was over, it was found that one Sital had been mortally wounded with gunshot. Now the question is, who shot him? Mr. DeMonte said to the District Magistrate he did not know by whom the man had been shot. If he really thought himself innocent, why did he not arrange to place the wounded man under medical treatment, or send information to the thana that he must have been murderously assaulted by the rioters? Mr. DeMonte did not allow a chowkidar who came to him with his badge on, to take away Sital, apprehending lest the man should be cut to pieces and he should himself be charged with the murder. Nor did he send the man to hospital.

It appears from Mr. DeMonte's own statements that he kept the wounded man near him, and made no arrangement for his treatment. He did not wire to the District Magistrate of Dacca to send a doctor, nor did he call in a private medical man from the Baira village, although, as he admitted in his own cross-examination, he had recently called Dr. Joges for his own treatment. Why did he not call Dr. Joges to attend to Sital as well?

Sital was wounded after dusk and died at 11 A.M. the next day. His deposition was taken down next morning. Nobody can say that the life of the man would not have been saved if he had been placed under medical treatment. The public impression now is that the man died for want of medical treatment. If this be true, even partially, should not Mr. DeMonte be prosecuted at least for abetment of murder? It is in evidence that nobody else used a gun. Susen's gun was proved to have been unused for a long time. If, therefore, Mr. DeMonte cannot be charged with murder, cannot at least the charge of abetment of murder be brought against him?

The ultimate result is that Sital's murderer remains undiscovered. The whole thing has ended in the punishment of Susendra Babu and others. The public demand an explanation of the whole affair, and the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam is the party which should supply that explanation.

12. The *Bihar Bandhu* [Bankipur] of the 13th February has a lengthy

A suggestion for the adoption of Devnagri script in the Courts of Bihar.

article on the relative merits and demerits of the Devnagri and Kaithi scripts, and finding the former superior to the other advocating its adoption in the Courts of Bihar. In speaking of Mr. Grierson and others who were instrumental in the introduction of Kaithi in the Courts of Bihar the journal says that the motive of these so-called well-wishers of Hindi was simply to undermine its foundation. Whatever may have been the object of adopting Kaithi as the Court script originally, the need of replacing it by Devnagri is now great, seeing that people are taking more and more to it. The Kaithi script is defective for want of several letters in

its alphabet. Besides all the acts of Government are published in Nagri. The Bihar should, therefore, agitate for the adoption of Devnagri in the Courts of Bihar.

(3)—Education.

13. The *Shiksha* [Bankipar] of the 4th February considers the use of Kaithi script in the Primary classes of the schools in Bihar as injurious, and recommends that it should be replaced by Devnagri.

SHIKSHA,
Feb. 4th, 1909.

Suggestion for the introduction of Devnagri script in the Primary classes of schools in Bihar.

14. The *Alpana* [Bankipar] of the 8th February ridicules the problem of the progress of Female Education which has for some time attracted the attention of the so-called civilised Biharis, for it involves the problem of the liberty of the fair sex which, in other words, means the doing away of the *parda* system, the only safeguard for preserving the honour of the weak during these hard times.

ALPANA,
Feb. 8th, 1909.

A lampoon on the progress of Female Education.

15. Referring to the petition of the "Dharma Mandal" to Sir Andrew Fraser protesting against the appointment of Dr. Asutosh Mukerjee as President of the Board of Sanskrit Examiners on the grounds that, (1) he is not well up in Sanskrit, (2) he has become unpopular with many pandits and students for giving his widowed daughter in marriage, and (3) he is

BANGAVASI,
Feb. 13th, 1909.

Protests against Dr. Asutosh Mukerjee's appointment as President of the Board of Sanskrit Examiners, and that of Dr. Satis Chandra Vidyabhusan as Principal of the Sanskrit College.

the President of the Bidagdha Janani Sabha of Nadia and the Inspector of the Sanskrit College at Mulajore; and against the appointment of Mahamahopadhyaya Satis Chandra Vidyabhusan as Principal of the Sanskrit College on the retirement of Mahamahopadhyaya Haraprasad Sastri, on the ground of his young age, lack of a sound knowledge of Sanskrit and of his belonging to the caste of "Graha Bipra," the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 13th February says that now that Sir Andrew Fraser has gone away, thousands of Hindus are anxiously awaiting the decision of Sir Edward Baker about the petition.

16. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 17th February publishes the following letter headed "Sleep of the University" from a correspondent signing himself "A teacher":—

DAILY HITAVADI,
Feb. 17th, 1909.

Lethargy of the University of Calcutta in publishing text-books and strictures passed by it on schools.

Will not the new University ever rise from its sleep? It was arranged that books in Sanskrit and Persian would be prepared and published by the University authorities themselves, and they have been doing so for a long time. Formerly, the examinees could buy these books three years before their examination, but owing to the new activity of the new University the candidates for the examination of 1910 could not get the books even two years before. Even then, the Sanskrit book was published in April and the Persian book was published in July. Of course, the information was communicated to the maffassil schools a month or so later, quite in accordance with the eternal custom of the University.

It is now seen that the sleeping authorities have turned on their side, and under the new regulations they will themselves publish even the grammars of the Sanskrit and Persian languages. Thus, poor authors have been deprived of the means of making a living. Let it be so, but may I ask when the examinees will get these grammars, and how they will find time to read them?

The examinees of 1910 are in a difficulty regarding History. The University selected some portions of the History of India, and declared that it would not prepare any text-book on the subject. On this, many old and new authors published various sorts of books on the subject, and the students too bought several of them. But afterwards the University did actually select a number of books and what are they now to do who have bought other books? The University authorities are preparing a nice book on "the effects of British rule in India" for the examinees whose test examination will be held eleven months hence, and the rare book cannot yet be had anywhere. What a nice arrangement!

And various kinds of swords are hanging over the schools. The building of a certain school is not good, therefore it must be disaffiliated. Every school must maintain a library containing the books of the authors favoured by the authorities, no matter whether such books are good or bad, useful or useless. A committee must be formed to manage the school even if it has no connection with the public. Over and above this there is the University Inspector (to find fault). They may order that fees must be enhanced, salaries of the teachers must be increased and drinking water must be examined by a medical man. The schools are thus being bound in hundreds of ways, and the people apprehend that after the close of the year 1912 even half the number of schools affiliated to the University will not exist. Then, the poor students being illiterate, will take to agriculture.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

SWADESH,
Feb. 1st, 1909.

17. Referring to the contract entered into by the Corporation of Calcutta with Messrs. Clayton and Company for works in connection with the overhead reservoir at Talla, the *Swadesh* [Calcutta] of the 1st February says that curiously enough the European Commissioners were in favour of Messrs. Burn and Company, who were styled by them a Swadeshi firm which should be supported even at an extra expenditure of four or five thousand rupees, while the Indian Commissioners were in favour of the rival European firm. Messrs. Clayton and Company, says the paper, are as much swadeshi as Messrs. Burn and Company, and they are sure to support the Local labourers. Therefore, it thanks Sir Charles Allen for saving about five thousand rupees for the poor rate-payers by entrusting Messrs. Clayton and Company with the works.

DAILY HITAVADI,
Feb. 15th, 1909.

18. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 15th February publishes a letter from a resident of Jessore in which the writer says:—

I am glad to read the article headed "Malaria and the Lieutenant-Governor" in the columns of the *Hitavadi* of the 23rd Magh (5th February) last:—It is a matter of pleasure that the attention of the Government has been drawn to the matter. But what would mere attention do? It is necessary that the causes of the disease should be ascertained and removed. As we have been the sufferers, our experience in the matter should not be wholly ignored. We tremble to learn that the population of Jessore is estimated to have decreased by seventy-five thousand in ten years, in the official report of the Census of 1901. If the population decreases in this proportion, then it may be apprehended that Jessore would be utterly depopulated in another fifty years. Many fields are lying fallow for want of cultivators. Twenty-five years back, the condition of Jessore was not so miserable, and though the district had the notoriety of being a hot-bed of malaria, the disease was confined only to a few places; but being spread everywhere now it is devouring everything. What is the cause of this? No doubt, the principal cause is the insufficiency of food. Every word said in the official Medical Report about it is true. This want of ours cannot be removed unless the Government stops the export of crops to foreign countries.

But over and above this there are several other causes. The first and the principal cause is the want of full bores in rivers. What is the cause of the rivers being dried up? What is the cause of there being no bores at all in the rivers during the month of *Bhadra*, which is the cause of the failure of the autumn crops and the disappearance of fish? The questions are thought over by every house-holder, but being unable to ascertain any cause, they curse their lot and give up the matter with a heavy sigh. Formerly, the rivers being swollen up in the month of *Bhadra* would wash the low-levelled tracts of the village, thus lessening the virulence of malaria. But now-a-days the

water, far from reaching the *bels* by means of canals and aqueducts passing through the villages, does not even swell up to the banks of the rivers.

The river Padma is the chief source of water-supply in Jessore and Faridpur. Those who have crossed the Padma at Saraghat have seen its miserable condition. Then, a bridge having been constructed over it, the Garai has almost dried up and with it, the Chandana, Navaganga, Chitra and the Kumara and other rivulets of Jessore and Faridpur are gradually disappearing. But what is the cause of this? Why are the rivers, the chief sources of the supply of pure drinking water, becoming stagnant and dried up. It is said that the Government of the Punjab are letting out the water of the Ganges into the Arabian Sea by opening several canals through the Punjab, resulting in the shrinkage of that river and the prevalence of malaria in the Punjab. The Ganges thus shrinking, its branch, the Garai, too has become feeble, and the little water that was left in it is about to disappear as the result of the pressure of the iron pillars supporting the Garai bridge. How should the small rivers exist while their source is destroyed? Such is the state of our drinking water, and how should we be able to escape the attacks of malaria and cholera?

A few years ago Babu Ambika Charan Mazumdar asked Government not to close completely the culverts of the Garai bridge, but the Government did not listen to this prayer. Even what little water could flow here formerly through the two sides of the bridge during the rainy season, cannot now come. Therefore, very little water of the bores can now come to Jessore. Another great obstruction to the bore is the embankment of Lalitakuri, owing to which the water from the Bhagirathi cannot at all flow to the rivers of Jessore during the bores. It is said that the Government constructed the embankment to protect the railway line and a number of villages. Before the construction of the embankment, water of the bores could freely flow to Jessore, and a few years ago it having broken down, the bore-water greatly damaged the crops. If the embankment had been all along open, there would have been no harm done to the people, because in that case they would have been careful from beforehand, and would have sown *baur* paddy, which would not have been affected by the rise of water, because such paddy-plants grow with the rise of water and attain the length of 25 or 30 cubits. On the whole, the Government would not be able to counterbalance the evil done to the country through the absence of flowing rivers and bores, by means of excavating thousands of wells and ponds. The root cause of the disease should be fought out. Of what avail would the provision of quinine only be? I hope that our good Lieutenant-Governor will look into this matter.

(h)—General.

19. The *Bihar Bandhu* [Bankipore] of the 6th February in the course of a long article regrets the attitude of the Muhammadans towards the Reform Scheme, specially of men like Mr. Amir Ali who, according to a correspon-

BIHAR BANDHU,
Feb. 6th, 1909.

The Mussalmans on the Reform Scheme.

dent of the *Bengalee*, is a Shia and cannot, therefore, represent the views of the Sunni community. Syed Husain Bilgrami, as well as Syed Ali Imam are also Shias and, therefore, cannot be taken to represent Muhammadan interest at large. The Muhammadans are, therefore, implored not to incur the odium of wrecking Lord Morley's scheme and depriving the nation of testing the liberality of His Lordship.

20. The *Alpanch* [Bankipore] of the 8th February hopes that Lord Morley will give due consideration to the claims of the Muhammadans in connection with the Indian Reforms as represented by the deputation of the Moslem League which waited on his Lordship, but exhorts the League to be determined in its efforts and not to be lulled to inactivity by mere formal promises.

ALPANCH,
Feb. 8th, 1909.

The Indian Reforms.

NAYAK,
Feb. 11th, 1909.

21. The *Nayak* [Calcutta] of the 11th February says that Government have, by giving the Musalmans too much indulgence on political grounds, altogether spoiled them. In fact, educated Musalmans have now begun to ask for too much from the Government, seeing that it tries its best to fulfil their desire even if only an infinitesimal minority of them happen to ask for anything in the name of the entire Musalman community. For instance, a Musalman barrister-at-law named Ali Iman recently delivered a lecture at Amritsar in which he gave the Viceroy a piece of his mind. He has sent a petition to His Excellency violently attacking Lord Morley's Reform Scheme. It now remains to be seen whether this hectoring will be effective. Mr. Iman says that both in administration and in representation Hindus and Musalmans should be separately treated. And it is rumoured that the Musalmans of Eastern Bengal also are trying to have something of the kind. But is such a separation of Hindus and Musalmans possible? Musalmans in this country live mixed up with their Hindu brothers in almost every sphere of life. The swadeshi and the boycott are a source of endless trouble to the Hindus, but it is the Mussalman artisans of the country who are most benefitted by them. The Musalmans have always opposed and kept themselves aloof from the Congress and the political agitation in India. But now that Lord Morley has become prepared to grant certain political privileges, they have come forward for the largest share of them. The Hindus will labour in the field and grow the crop, but the Musalmans must reap the harvest. A nice situation indeed. Again, it was simply ridiculous when the deputation, headed by Mr. Amir Ali, that waited on Lord Morley, predicted friendly political relations of Great Britain with the Musalmans Powers in the world if the former would grant the Indian Musalmans all that they desired. Mr. Amir Ali, moreover, said that the loyalty of the Musalmans was a safeguard of the Indian Empire. Anglicised hatted and coated Indians, be they Hindus or Musalmans, have no real status in the society, and their movements are in most cases unknown to, and unsanctioned by, the masses. It is because the masses take no interest in politics and never take the trouble of contradicting anybody that the opinions of these anglicised gentlemen pass current as genuine. As for the officials they are advised to be more judicious in future in the matter of giving indulgence to the Musalmans, else the consequence may be serious.

SOLTAN,
Feb. 12th, 1909.

22. Referring to Lord Morley's Reform Scheme, the *Soltan* [Calcutta] of the 12th February says that if self-government is what the Hindus and the Hindu press desire to have they should not, at the same time, entertain the evil desire of enjoying the entire thing themselves. They must be prepared to share with the Musalmans whatever political privilege is acquired, otherwise the whole thing will be spoiled. It is a great mistake on the part of the Hindus to think that they can safely neglect the cause of the Musalmans and enjoy the entire political privilege in spite of them. The writer then takes the *Basumati* newspaper severely to task for having published a cartoon in which Mr. Amir Ali meanly dressed as a Musalman has been represented as offering an egg labelled "Amended scheme" to Lord Morley represented as a duck sitting on another egg labelled "Reform scheme."

HITAVADI,
Feb. 12th, 1909.

Lord Morley and the Mahomedan Deputation.

23. Writing about Lord Morley's reply to the Mahomedan deputation the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 12th February says:—

We have found clear evidence of political cunning in Lord Morley's reply. His Lordship has not committed himself one way or the other. Mr. Amir Ali claimed preferential treatment for Mahomedans on the ground that they had been the rulers of India before the English came. Lord MacDonnell reminded Mr. Amir Ali that his co-religionists no longer enjoyed that distinction. He was right. The Hindus and Mahomedans are now the subjects of the same sovereign, and occupy the same position. Such being the case are not the pretensions of Mr. Amir Ali and his friends ridiculous?

24. In noticing the rumour about the appointment of Mr. Justice Ashutosh Mukerji as an Indian Member of the Viceroy's Council, the *Alpanch* [Bankipur] of the 8th February remarks—"True, the child who cries gets the milk!"

ALPANCH,
Feb. 8th, 1909.

25. Discussing the respective claims of Dr. Ashutosh Mukerjee, Justice Chandravarkar and Dr. Rashbihari Ghose, in reference to the news published by the Daily Mail about the appointment of an Indian on the Viceroy's Executive Council, the *Hitavadi*

HITAVADI,
Feb. 11th, 1909.

Rumour about the appointment of an Indian Member on the Viceroy's Council.

[Calcutta] of the 11th February gives his verdict for Dr. Ghose as a safer man than Dr. Mukerjee both from the people's as well as the Government point of view. Government may appoint Nawab Sir Salimulla Bahadur or Sir Pheroze Shah Mehta as well, but in that case Lord Morley's scheme would be understood as being a device to throw dust into the eyes of the people.

26. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 12th February opposes the appointment of Justice Mukerjee as a Member of the Viceroy's Executive Council, on the ground that a High Court Judge cannot be a suppliant for Government favour without sacrificing his independence. The existing rules which prevent Dr. Rashbehari Ghose from being appointed to the post for his not being a Barrister should be changed.

HITAVADI,
Feb. 12th, 1909.

The rumoured appointment of Dr. Mukerjee to the Viceroy's Executive Council.

27. Referring to the rumour about Dr. Ashutosh Mukerjee's appointment to the Viceroy's Executive Council, the *Hindusthan* [Calcutta] of the 13th February says that its readers will be glad to learn that its conjecture about the groundlessness of the rumour, has turned out to be true. The news has been contradicted from the office of the Secretary of State for India, who has not yet selected any one for the post. In the opinion of the paper, Dr. Rashbehari Ghose will be the fittest person to hold the appointment, but there is the hitch of his not being a Barrister-at-law.

HINDUSTHAN,
Feb. 13th, 1909.

The rumour about the appointment of Dr. Ashutosh Mukerjee to the Executive Council.

28. Referring to the rumour about the appointment of an Indian to the Viceroy's Executive Council the *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 12th February, writes:—

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
Feb. 12th, 1909.

The question was raised by the Mahomedan Deputation that waited upon Lord Morley, but no hopeful reply was given to it. The principle of appointing a really able Indian to the post sounds very well, and we also endorse it. The newspapers in India conducted by Mussalmans have begun discussing the question. Mr. Amir Ali is the fittest man for the post, and we hope that the Government will act in the matter after sound deliberation.

29. It is satisfactory to see, writes the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 12th February, that Sir Edward Baker is earnestly and sincerely trying to make the Reform Scheme a success in his Province. His Honour has given wholesome, and at the same time a much-needed advice, to his subordinates. His Honour's utterances in Council have given great satisfaction in the country. The only thing now necessary is the hearty co-operation of the officials. It is to be hoped that the causes that brought about the failure of the self-government scheme of Lord Ripon, will not operate in making the present scheme a failure.

HITAVADI,
Feb. 12th, 1909.

30. The *Alpanch* [Bankipore] of the 8th February, while it does not like to question the issue of the Indian Loan on the ground that it is required for the protection of the country, gives way to fear lest a new Bomb-tax may be imposed on the Indians and fresh loans required to meet the expenses of the Alipur bomb case.

ALPANCH,
Feb. 8th, 1909.

31. Referring to the tour of Sir Edward Baker in the famine-stricken places in Bihar, even at the sacrifice of the pleasure of taking part in the marriage ceremony of Lady Violet, and to His Honour's sanction of thirty lakhs

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
Feb. 9th, 1909.

Sanction of thirty lakhs of rupees for the relief of the famine-stricken people in Bihar.

for the relief of the sufferers, the *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 9th February thanks His Honour most heartily for these acts.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
Feb. 9th, 1909.

32. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 9th February quotes a paragraph from the *Bangavasi*, in which the writer, after referring to Sir Edward Baker's intended visit to all the districts in the Burdwan Division except Midnapur, says that if the intention of the Viceroy and the Lieutenant-Governor be to acquaint themselves with the real condition of the people and to allay the unrest by their tours in the mufassil, His Honour ought first of all to visit Midnapur.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,
Feb. 12th, 1909.

33. Referring to the opposition raised by some people to the appointment of Syed Ali Nawab, aged 22, son of the late Mutwalli, Syed Asufuddin Ahmad, as the new Mutwalli, a correspondent of the *Education Gazette* [Chinsura] of the 12th February writes:—

The chief ground of the oppositionists is that the new Mutwalli is not a *pucca* Shia. Now what is the distinction between a *pucca* and a *kutchi* Shia? The Muhammadan religion does not recognise any such distinction. The new Mutwalli comes of the Syed family. His grandfather was known to the Nawab of Oudh as a *pucca* Shia, and the Government has known the members of this family as *pucca* loyalists since the time of the Mutiny. What right then have others to oppose his appointment? Again, a Mutwalli is appointed for life. How, then, can any man from Patna, or any representative of the family of Tipu Sultan, be appointed to the post while the former Mutwalli is still living? Those who object to the appointment of the son to his father's post out of spite, let them say so plainly. The oppositionists, by trying to boycott the Emambari, have shown their unfitness for such a desirable situation. It might reasonably be urged that if a far better candidate were forthcoming, one that would worthily fill the place formerly occupied by experienced men, the present Mutwalli should not have been appointed to his father's post. But such men are very few in the country, and there is no such candidate among the oppositionists who are all of the "failed Entrance" type. That Government has kept the estate of the late Muhammad Moshin in its own hands ought to be a source of satisfaction to the Muhammadan community, and nobody should oppose the arrangement sanctioned by Government.

HITAVADI,
Feb. 12th, 1909.

34. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 12th February recommends that, considering the high prices of food-stuffs, the poor clerks in Calcutta should be granted special allowances, just as clerks in Rangoon and Bombay are granted such allowances, and expresses the hope that provision will be made in the coming Budget for this purpose.

HITAVADI,
Feb. 12th, 1909.

35. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 12th February, asks why no provision has been made for the family of any of the deportees from Eastern Bengal except only that of Pulin Babu. Is the Eastern Bengal Government behindhand in showing a little generosity?

Babu Kristo Kumar Mitra's son, in declining to accept any allowance from the Government, requested that justice might be done to his father. This was a most legitimate prayer no doubt. Deportation without trial exposes the Government to all sorts of remarks and generates distrust in the minds of the ruled.

*SRI SRI VISHNUPRIYA-
O-ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA*,
Feb. 12th, 1909.

36. Referring to a rumour that Mr. Duke, the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bengal, is going away as Commissioner of the Tirhut Division, and that Sir Charles Allen is going to take his place, the *Sri Sri Vishnu-priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 12th February, writes:—

No doubt the general public will greet the news with satisfaction. The Indians have great respect for Sir Charles Allen, and it may be hoped that with

Sir Edward Baker as Lieutenant-Governor and Sir Charles Allen as his Chief Secretary, the work of the Government of Bengal will be carried on well and on sound methods.

37. Referring to the reply given to the question asked, in the Viceroy's Council, by the Hon'ble Mr. Dadabhoy, about the abolition of the excise duty on cotton goods, the

The excise duty on cotton goods.

Hitavadi [Calcutta] of the 12th February, says:—

We are sorry that Government could hold out no prospect of the abolition of the excise duty on cotton goods. Lord Minto professed to be a friend of "honest swadeshi." But to what conclusion will the people be driven by this reply of the Government? Can a friend of "honest swadeshi" consistently retain the tax which was imposed avowedly to safeguard the interests of Manchester?

38. Referring to the reply given to the Hon'ble Mr. Dadabhoy on the subject of the separation of the Judicial and Executive functions in the Viceroy's Legislative Council, the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 12th

The separation of the Judicial and Executive Functions.

February has the following:—

The reply of Government is indeed disappointing. Nobody can say when a final settlement of the question will be arrived at. Sir Edward Baker, when Finance Minister to the Viceroy, was in favour of the separation. His Honour is said to have been of opinion that the separation ought to be carried out not only in Bengal but in all the other Provinces of India. He is now the ruler of Bengal, and will have to express his views about the proposal.

The fact is that the grounds in support of the separation of the two functions are incontrovertible. The Bengal Chamber of Commerce has indeed opposed the scheme on account of the discovery of the Bomb conspiracy and the subsequent anarchist murders. But if the Bomb conspiracy has been discovered, Government has also armed itself by passing three stringent Acts. What objection can there be then to effect the much-needed separation? In these days of unrest and excitement, everything possible should be done to increase the confidence of the people in the Government. If the unholy combination of the two functions be permitted to continue can the people have faith in the justice of the Government?

Government proposes to make experiments of the separation of the two functions in certain places. Supposing the results obtained are unsatisfactory, will there be any delay in reverting to the old order of things? During the last quarter of a century we heard all sorts of arguments, both for and against the scheme. The strongest argument of old seems to be that our rulers are most unwilling to part with power. Those who have grown accustomed to bite as a snake and then to treat the patient in the capacity of a snake charmer, are naturally averse to make over the task of treatment to other hands. This is why the separation of the two functions has not been carried out so long, and this is why this stigma on the British administration of India still endures. If the rulers will emerge from the infatuation of irresponsible power, they will be convinced that the proposed separation can never be productive of any mischief, and that it is the combination of the two functions that is fraught with mischief.

We beg to inform His Excellency Lord Minto and His Honour Sir Edward Baker that the delay in separating the two functions is giving rise to unwelcome impressions in the minds of the people. Most people believe that Lord Minto is not at all anxious to carry out the reform. We hope that His Excellency will, before he leaves these shores in two years more, carry out the measure and leave a name behind which generations of grateful Indians will fondly cherish.

39. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 13th February says that Mr. Hughes Buller, Secretary to the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam, has set a very bad example by condoning the conduct of some Gurkha guards who, a few days ago, assaulted a Bengali clerk. Mr. Buller had sent for the clerk and the latter, while on his way to see him at his office, was slapped on the face by the men. When the incident was reported to Mr. Buller, the

Assault on a Bengali clerk by Gurkha guards.

HITAVADI,
Feb. 12th, 1909.

HITAVADI,
Feb. 12th, 1909.

BASUMATI,
Feb. 13th, 1909.

dharmavata (incarnation of justice) was pleased to remark that as the Babu had beaten the Gurkha in his turn, he would take no notice!

NAYAK,
Feb. 16th, 1909.

40. The *Nayak* [Calcutta] of the 16th February has the following paragraph:—

The Viceroy on tour.

The *Baralot* is shooting tigers, rhinoceroses etc., in the Lohapara jungle. But the task of killing the tigers and bears of society has been entrusted to the police. What a nice arrangement!

SWADEN,
Jan. 18th, 1909.

41. The *Swadesh* [Calcutta] of the 18th January, writes:—

The importance of agricultural improvement.

None but the blind will fail to see that the Government of India, as also all the Provincial Governments, are busily engaged in improving the arts and agriculture of the country, none but the insane will fail to appreciate it. But the people must co-operate with the Government, so that success may be achieved. Government shows the way and the people must follow. Government has established agricultural schools containing libraries of agricultural treatises, has opened model farms, and is giving agricultural instruction by these means.

Government has spent vast sums in excavating canals for purposes of irrigation in Bengal, Bihar, the Central Provinces, Madras, Bombay and the Punjab. Thus the mischief which the uncertain rainfall in the country frequently does has been minimised. Government sinks wells, specially in famine areas, for irrigating the fields. Government keeps its eyes wide open for the improvement of agriculture. But as we have said at the outset, co-operation of the people with Government is essential. People should realise that the country's welfare depends upon the improvement of agriculture.

III.—LEGISLATION.

NAYAK,
Jan. 12th, 1909.

42. In an article on the Bengal Excise Bill, the *Nayak* [Calcutta] of the 12th February, advocates the introduction into this

The Bengal Excise Bill.

country of the Local Option system obtaining in Europe and America. The write, however, fears that the prospect of loss of revenue will prevent the authorities from taking such a wholesome step in the excise administration of the country, although they have no right to let the country be ruined for the sake of revenue. As regards the hour of closing liquor shops at night, it should be fixed at 9 o'clock throughout the country. And any provision in this connection, instead of being made merely to embellish the statute-book, should be strictly and rigorously enforced.

BANGAVASI,
Feb. 13th, 1909.

43. Referring to the petition of the Bengal Dharma Mahamandal, which

Religious Endowment Bill.

is a branch of the larger organisation named Bharat Dharma Mahamandal, protesting against the Religious Endowment Bill proposed by Dr. Reshbehari Ghose, the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 13th February, writes:—

The Dharma Mahamandal has rightly said that if the Bill be passed into law many people connected with estates endowed for religious purposes will be inconvenienced and greatly mortified. Can it ever be the cherished idea of the authorities to interfere with the religion of crores of Hindu subjects, and to wound their feelings?

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

KHULNAVASI,
Feb. 6th, 1909.

44. Owing to a very scanty growth of paddy in the thanas of Kaliganj,

Famine apprehended in the Khulna district.

Syamnagar and Asasuni, in the district of Khulna, the *Khulnavasi* [Khulna] of the 6th February, apprehends that there will be famine in the villages of Kaliganj, Budhhata, Khajurdanga, Solpara, Basantapur, Nityanandapur, Pratapnagar, Iswaripur, Mukundapur, Pania, Mantala, Taierhat, Khanjia, Sainhati, Champakul, Ramnagar Abdulkhali, Nakipur, Runnagar, Gopalpur, Sankara, Rudrapur and Hajipur, etc., in the jurisdiction of the said thanas, consisting of about 25 square miles. The paper draws the attention of

Mr. Johnstone, the District Magistrate, to the matter and hopes that he will take steps in time. Otherwise it will be difficult to cope with the scarcity when it actually happens even at an enormous expenditure.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

45. In continuing its article on "Hindus and Musalmans" from its last issue (*vide*, page 193 of the Report for the week ending the 13th February 1909), the *Bihar Bandhu* [Bankipore] of the 6th February points out how the Musalmans live in harmony with the Hindus in the Native States, and how the Hindus participate in Muhammadan festivals. The case of His Highness the Maharaja Scindhia of Gwalior, who observes the Muharrum, is cited in support of the above statement. The journal exhorts the Muhammadans to forget their religious differences with the Hindus for the time being and try to save themselves from the political revolution that is going on at present. It is the prime duty of all the Indians of whatever denomination they may be, to save the nation from the peril with which it is just threatened. The Muhammadans should remember that they are the sons of the same mother as the Hindus, viz., India. If they quarrel with each other, both will be destroyed. The present position of both the Hindus and the Musalmans is like that of a dog sitting below his master's table in expectation of crumbs and ultimately having had to be contented with licking the almost empty dishes. The sensible portion of the Muhammadans do understand that independence is the only thing desirable, and that it cannot be had without unity. They should therefore cultivate unity, following the example of Japan where patriotism is prized above all. The religious differences would vanish with the possession of independence: all that is required to secure the end is, while following the dictates of one's own religion, toleration should be shown to the religious views of others.

BHARAT BANDHU,
Feb. 6th, 1909.

46. The *Alpanch* [Bankipore] of the 8th February expresses its indignation at the tarring of the bust of the Queen's statue at Benares, and says that acts of mischief like this are calculated simply to ruin the Indians.

ALPANCH,
Feb. 8th, 1909.

47. The *Alpanch* [Bankipore] of the 8th February is not disposed to give credence to the version of the *Basumati*, subscribed by one of its correspondents, regarding Kunja Lal Bhattacharjee's assault on Sir William Lee Warner, as it says that none but a low blackguard would call names on mere reading of a letter presented to him by a stranger. It seems more probable, adds the paper, that the Brahman Babu was driven by rage to use incoherent language before Sir Lee Warner, who was thus compelled to refuse accepting the letter.

ALPANCH,
Feb. 8th, 1909.

48. Referring to the incident in which Sir William Lee Warner, the present Vice-President of the India Office, was assaulted by one Kunja Lal Bhattacharyya for using abusive language to the latter when he was waiting at the India Office to present a petition to Lord Morley on the 12th January last, the *Samay* [Calcutta] of the 12th February expresses its regret that Sir William should have thus been treated by the Bengali youth.

SAMAY,
Feb. 12th, 1909.

49. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 11th February gives an account of the assault committed on Sir William Lee Warner by a Bengali, laying stress on the treatment of the accused by the police and contrasting the same with what an accused receives in this country in similar circumstances.

BHARAT MITRA,
Feb. 11th, 1909.

50. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 11th February, in an article headed "Do not lose the opportunity" writes:—
Just as favourable opportunities present themselves to a man at particular moments in his life, so, nations are also presented with similar opportunities which should not be lost. Swadeshi has been preached in India for a long time, and lectures have also been delivered from platforms asking the people to demand political rights, but these never touched the hearts of the people till the present times, and now the hand of God is

SANJIVANI,
Feb. 11th, 1909.

distinctly perceived to be working underneath the new hopes and aspirations of the people of India. Now the people have risen from their torpor of a thousand years. The current of the new thoughts and activity which was first generated in Bengal and is now spreading fast throughout India, a current which does not come so easily, should not be checked. Obstacles in the shape of fear and temptation have presented themselves to swerve us from the path of our activities for the national cause to which God has called us. The people of the country have to suffer oppression, insult and calumny, and boys, youths and old men, all have to suffer various sorts of oppression; but none of these could turn our minds from our path. Now we have the fear of the repressive measures on the one hand and the temptation of Lord Morley's Reform Scheme on the other. We are afraid lest those who could not be driven from their duty by fear, should now fall a prey to temptation. No doubt, if the Reform Scheme be worked out we shall advance a little towards our ideal, but so long as the Partition of Bengal is not annulled, repressive policy is not altered, men deported without trial are not released and political offenders are not pardoned, there would be no peace for us. As for Swadeshi it contains the germ of national life and by it the whole nation will be revived, and it will bring a new era to the country. Guided by worldly motives the leaders of the people should not lose this opportunity and should not be deaf to the calls from God. The new Spirit should not be trifled with.

Being roused by God we shall proceed fearlessly on the one hand, and on the other we shall give up all unconstitutional methods. Ours is a path of love and righteousness.

It is a shame that we are quarrelling among ourselves, and trying to defeat our aim. No more, look at the Mother, unite and give up meanness and lose your personality. Listen to the call from God. Follow it and do not lose the opportunity. After thousands of years God has kindly sent down the light of a new dawn, and you should not sleep or quarrel any longer. Do not ignore the call from God out of fear or temptation. New yearnings have been aroused and new currents are flowing. Plunge in the stream, and the sorrows of the country will be over.

NAYAK,
Feb. 11th, 1909.

51. The *Nayak* [Calcutta] of the 11th February speaks in strong terms against such anarchist outrages as the murder of Babu Ashutosh Biswas. Virtue is not established by vice, and by murder no service is rendered to the country. It is only atheists and men of undisciplined minds who can be assassins and bomb-throwers. All this, says the writer, we said when Khudiram threw his bomb, and we repeat them now that Babu Ashutosh Biswas has fallen by the assassins's hand. Indeed it is now the duty of every Indian newspaper and of every Swadeshi speaker to deprecate these anarchist outrages. The civilised world should be made to know that every Indian, irrespective of creed or colour, hates such heinous crimes. We for ourselves shall do all that lies in our power to wipe out anarchism from the country, and we hope to get the help of every respectable Bengali in this endeavour of ours.

DAINK CHANDRIKA,
Feb. 12th, 1909.

52. Referring the murder of Babu Ashutosh Biswas, the Public Prosecutor of the 24-Perganas, the *Dainik Chandrika* [Calcutta] of the 12th February writes:—

The murder has produced a great sensation in Calcutta. The general public are greatly moved at this unexpected event. If a perfect gentleman like Babu Ashutosh Biswas should have been an eyesore to the anarchists, there is no reason to doubt that most of the Government officers are marked out by the misguided fanatics. If the poor youth knew how much loss has been caused to the country by the murder, he could not have committed the act, which will result in, we do not know, what serious mischief for the country. This terrible occurrence happening just at the time when the Government is about to reform the administration of the country is, no doubt, a proof of the ill-luck of the country. It is difficult to understand how Ashu Babu roused the anger of the anarchists. He did no wrong to any one. He was simply assisting Mr. Norton in the bomb case in his capacity as Public Prosecutor, duty-bound to do so.

53. Referring to the murder of Babu Ashutosh Biswas, Public Prosecutor at Alipur, the *Howrah Hitaishi* [Howrah] of the

HOWRAH HITASHI,
Feb. 12th, 1900.

The murder of Babu Ashutosh Biswas. 13th February writes:

Our grief is all the more poignant because the youth who now stands charged with the foul murder, was, a year or so ago, under our protection and fed at our expense. At a time when serious domestic trouble overtook us, he rendered considerable help to us, and we derived great benefit from him. And we took compassion on him, a helpless orphan as he was, and tried our best to get him into some service. Who knew at the time that this very youth would ultimately be the perpetrator of such a heinous offence? Who knew that he would be the murderer of our beloved friend, and friend of the country and the people? Who could imagine that this luckless youth would one day bring such disaster on us and our country? We are so overwhelmed with grief that we are unable to write anything more on this subject. As we drop every line on paper, the memory of dear Ashutosh's kindness and affection arises in our soul, and sorrow, grief, hatred and shame overwhelm us. The wicked, daring and irrepressible evil propensities of these ill-educated, short-sighted and fanatical young men, make us despair of the future of our country. If these cowardly assassinations go on unchecked, there will be anarchy in the country, and the life and property of all right-thinking men will become more and more unsafe. We, therefore, implore our country and the Government to take proper steps for the suppression of these crimes. May God help us.

54. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 14th February expresses the greatest indignation and horror at the dastardly murder of Babu Ashutosh Biswas. Such a crime

DAILY HITAVADI,
Feb. 14th, 1900.

The Alipur murder. has always, and will always, appear most heinous to every true Hindu. It is a matter of the greatest regret that for want of religious education a class of young men is being imbued with nihilistic ideas. A most calamitous degeneration will overtake the country if young men begin to look on the perpetration of a dastardly murder as an exhibition of the highest bravery. India has never risen by man-slaughter nor will it ever rise by man-slaughter. The murder of Ashutosh Babu has most probably been committed out of sympathy for the accused persons in the Alipur bomb case. But as a matter of fact, the murder has only made the case of these men worse, and would never have been committed if the murderer had calmly weighed in his mind the consequences of his act. He wanted to appear before the public as a martyr sacrificing his life for the sake of the accused persons in the bomb case, but the country is only cursing him and calling him a blood-thirsty fiend for what he has done. It is hoped that the pious and cool-headed people of the country will, by publishing their views on the subject, try to bring about a change in the ideas and sentiments of these erratic and crack-brained youths.

55. The *Bir Bharat* [Calcutta] of the 14th February gives a detailed account of the horrible murder of Babu Ashutosh Biswas by an anarchist and is very sorry to hear of the same.

BIR BHARAT,
Feb. 14th, 1900.

56. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 15th February contains a detailed account of the murder of Babu Ashutosh Biswas, Public Prosecutor of the Alipur Court, which it calls a dastardly homicidal act.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
Feb. 15th, 1900.

57. Referring to the murder of Babu Asutosh Biswas, late Public Prosecutor of the 24-Parganas, the *Swadesh* [Calcutta] of the 15th February expresses its deep regret and sympathises with the bereaved family, and concludes by saying that such murders are against religious and social principles. The country can never be expected to prosper unless such germs of sedition are nipped in the bud, but it is impossible to do so without the co-operation of the people with the Government in checking the anarchists.

SWADESH,
Feb. 15th, 1900.

58. The *Nayak* [Calcutta] of the 12th February says that it is the form of education which the English have been giving the Indians that is responsible for the present

NAYAK,
Feb. 12th, 1900.

outbreak of anarchism in the country. An education totally divorced from religion has created, and is creating, a class of people who are neither Hindus nor Musalmans nor Buddhists nor Christians. No faith binds them, no spiritual discipline moulds their character. It is from the ranks of these people that bomb-throwers and assassins are recruited, and Anglicised England-returned men seem to have the largest influence on them. But for the expunging of the Hindu spirit from the education of the Hindus and the currency of Mlechha ideas and habits among them, the present deplorable situation would never have occurred in the country. A Hindu's son in *Feringhi* garb is a beast or a fiend. He knows only English, he understands only Anglicised ideas and the methods of the Nihilist community of Europe form the ideal of his life. Mercy, tenderness, self-restraint, austerities and devotion form no part of his religion. His religion is based on murder of individuals and his work consists in generating a disturbance in the society. It is such a being as this that has murdered Babu Ashutosh Biswas. The gallows does not punish him adequately for he fears it not. Nay, he even makes it the goal of his life. The best way of curing this terrible malady in the social body is to abolish the form of education that has given rise to it. But this does not seem to be possible under the British Administration. Nevertheless, continues the writer, we must support, with all the force and influence that we can command, whatever measure Government will adopt for checking the spread of nihilism in the country. But we crave the authorities not to be over-agitated in the matter, and not to punish innocent men; for, one innocent man punished becomes the cause of the rise of ten assassins. The evil can be destroyed only by making education denominational in the country.

NAYAK,
Feb. 13th, 1909.

59. Referring to the murder of Babu Ashutosh Biswas the *Nayak* [Calcutta] of the 13th February says that no good can come out of a sinful act, and the sin of a secret

murder is not atoned for in one life. Words are inadequate to depict the harm that is being done to society by those "Babus" cursed with Western education, who are teaching young men to commit secret murder and are converting them into ferocious animals by placing fire-arms in their hands. Besides this the murder of Narendra Nath Gosain and Babu Ashutosh Biswas has only made the Alipur Bomb case worse for the persons implicated in it. The murderer of Ashutosh is a poor, crack-brained boy. The question now is, who supplied him with a pistol to commit the murderous act? And no one will be able to say anything if in hunting for the real source of these crimes the authorities and officials, who will henceforth live in constant fear of being murdered, should punish and persecute innocent men. But, continues the writer, we have to say this to the English people and the English rulers of India that this deplorable state of things has not been brought about through the fault of one party only. They too have been guilty of serious offence and are still following an indiscreet and offensive course. It is the ruler's guilt that destroys the ruled, it is the English people's guilt that destroys the people, it is through the fault of the English that the Bengalis have been led astray. The guilt lies in the haughty demeanour of the body of English rulers, the guilt lies in the all-engrossing English commercialism. What oppressions have you not been committing on the Bengalis since the time of Sir Charles Elliott? We do not favour bomb-throwing, neither do we favour a fiery consuming rule. We desire that the rulers should be more virtuous than the ruled.

DAILY HITAVADI,
Feb. 13th, 1909.

60. Referring to a letter written by Professor Lees Smith appearing in the columns of the newspapers of this country in which he mentions the bad treatment accorded by Englishmen to Indians and advises Anglo-Indians to treat Indians properly, in order to save the reputation of their country, the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 12th February writes:—

Many Englishmen have realised what a deep disrespect for Englishmen has taken possession of the minds of the Indians, owing to the ill-treatment accorded to them by Englishmen proud of their power and of their extended empire. Lord Morley has, therefore, requested the Anglo-Indians to show

proper courtesy to the Indians, and other Englishmen too have been advising them to be more careful in this respect.

It is perfectly clear from his letter that Professor Lees Smith has perfectly understood the character of the Anglo-Indians, but there is great doubt about their accepting his advice because good advice is not always agreeable.

61. Referring to the views expressed by Professor Lees Smith on the ill-treatment of Indians by Anglo-Indians the *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 13th February writes:—

Professor Lees Smith on the treatment of Indians by Anglo-Indians.

The generosity, the farsightedness and the sympathy of Professor Lees Smith for Indians are commendable. But truth to tell, his utterances are mere cries in the wilderness. He has been shocked to find the Indians excluded from first class hotels and clubs, and he has protested against the narrowness of Englishmen in India. But he does not know that Englishmen object even to visit the Museum and travel in tram-cars in company with the Indians. The little mind of John Bull has become narrower still by the effects of the Indian climate, and there is very little prospect of its ever becoming larger at the instance of the Professor.

BASUMATI,
Feb. 13th, 1909.

62. The *Englishman*, says the *Nayak* [Calcutta] of the 13th February, has made a serious indictment against the Bengalis.

The *Englishman* and bomb-throwers.

It has said, "Hundreds of people must be aware of the names and haunts of the bomb-throwers, but they remain silent." But this is a false indictment. The bomb-throwers have no party, no haunts. What party or haunts they had have been dispersed and broken by the police. It is individual boys who now make bombs or do the shooting. The murderer of Babu Ashutosh Biswas is a poor deformed weakling. Such a person cannot be a member of a party. The revolutionists, we can emphatically say, have no party, so that no one does, nor can, know any of them." It were better the *Englishman* had been more cautious in its writings now.

NAYAK,
Feb. 13th, 1909.

63. In a leading article the *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 13th February

The rise in the price of food-stuffs.

tries to show how, in consequence of the fictitious value put upon the rupee, which has been maintained by Government by closing the Mints to the public, and also owing to the Exchange difficulty between India and other countries where a gold currency obtains, the prices of food-stuffs have risen. As a remedy, the writer suggests that, as a gold currency in India is out of the question, a five-rupee gold coin should be introduced and made legal tender; or, if the weight of the rupee be raised from one tola to one tola and nine annas, the problem will be solved, though not as satisfactorily as might be desired.

BASUMATI,
Feb. 13th, 1909.

64. The *Nayak* [Calcutta] of the 15th February says that the murder

Repressive laws and their effect.

of Babu Asutosh Biswas shows that the new repressive laws have failed in their object of repressing those who neither fear nor care for law. The repressive laws have only been effective in oppressing law-abiding innocent people. Ashu Babu's murder also proves that the educated community has no hand in the matter. It is not at all clear what it is that the assassins want. It does not appear that they want the country to be under another rule. It does not appear also that they want to hinder legal proceedings. And why should Ashu Babu have been singled out by them from the large number of men who are working in the Alipur Case? The question requires serious consideration.

NAYAK,
Feb. 15th, 1909.

65. The *Nayak* [Calcutta] of the 15th February quotes a song of

"The song of sorrow."

Ramprasad, the saint and devotee, in which the poet says to the Mother Kali that he is not afraid of being smitten with sorrows, for he lives in the midst of them and bears a heavy load of them on his head; that he is proud of his sorrows while people in general are proud of their mundane blessings, his only prayer to the Eternal Mother being that the load of sorrows may be taken off his head for a while so that he may take a little rest. This song is the outburst of a

NAYAK,
Feb. 15th, 1909.

truly Bengali heart, because none but a Bengali can boast of his sorrows in such a manner. What the Bengali wants is not a cessation of sorrows, but only a respite from them. The late Maharaja Sir Jatindra Mohan Tagore once said, "Our great sorrow is dependence; in the shadow of that great sorrow we have only to make a show of happiness. And the pleasure of this show also we have to purchase at a high price." These words should be written in letters of gold in every Bengali's house. It is in two ways that we are dependent. First, we are dependent on the English and for this we have to blame our ill-luck; secondly, we are dependent on Anglicism and our want of *intelligence* alone is to blame for this. We have, and we know how, to endure the dependence on the English as being due to ill-luck. But our dependence on Anglicism being due to our want of intelligence, it sometimes appears unbearable to us. But we Bengalis are not afraid of even unbearable sorrows and, with smiling faces, endure the terrible poverty and misery caused by this dreadful Anglicism. Those who do not feel any fatigue under this load of sorrows may do whatever they like. We, for ourselves, really require a little respite and so piteously pray to the Mother to take off the load for a while. Anglicism causes us sorrow on account of its being too big a thing for us. It does not lie in our power to be able to hold it, and many of us burst and perish through its pressure. We are all cursed by fortune; we expend more than we earn. A calamity has overtaken our society which amounts to the extracting, drop by drop, of the life-blood of the people and pouring it into the mouths of men steeped in luxury. Vakils and barristers-at-law, doctors and kavirajes, zamindars and engineers, tradesmen and money-lenders, all are collecting the life-blood of the masses, and it is being heedlessly spent for furthering the ends of luxury. Your horses and chariots, your palaces and gardens, your servants and retainers, your coachmen and khansamas, your robes and ornaments, are all derived from the life-blood of the masses. You cannot create a new industry in the country, you do not know how to do it. None of you can make money flow into the country from abroad. You make yourself rich by collecting the pollen that fall to the ground from the flowers which Englishmen bring into this country for draining it—by helping them in taking money out of this country. In no country and in no literature is this called true earning of money. You are dependent and Hindus, and you must remain Hindus. If you take up the garb of Englishmen and try to compete with them in any thing, you will not only be defeated, but will also fall into a mire of wants as a punishment for your Anglicism. It is because the English are superior to us in wordly affairs that they are conquerors of India. And you are the conquered because you are inferior. So long as this difference will continue to exist between Englishmen and Hindus, it will be madness on the part of the latter to try to compete with the former. First be men like the English and then come to measure swords with them. At present such a conflict can only increase sinfulness, create bombs and occasion man-slaughter and secret murder with the effect that sorrow caused by unrighteousness will only go on increasing. We realise that there is no end of these sorrows. We feel that the load of sorrows which we have to bear is heavier and more oppressive than what was borne by our forefathers. And we know that this load must still be borne by many generations to come. It is because we know and realise all this that we open our hearts to the Mother of this universe and say that we are not afraid of sorrow. And had we feared it we would not have been able to bear it with such calmness, generation after generation, century after century. We are born in sorrow, we live in sorrow, sorrow is the stay of our life, indeed, sorrow is our life. What then should we be anxious for? There are none in this world like us. No other people on the face of the earth has survived such a 'rigid fact of sorrow' extending over a thousand years. Can we not boast of the happening of such an impossibility? But we want a little rest, we want to take a breath of respite, we want once to wipe off our brows the sweat of a thousand years' hard labour. Take off, O! Mother, the load of sorrow of which we have taken a permanent lease; take it off once for a moment. You have never heeded any prayer. Will you heed this prayer of ours now? Will you take down the load?

URIYA PAPERS.

66. The *Uriya and Navasambad* [Balasore] of the 30th December publishes a resolution passed by a meeting of the domiciled Bengali Association in Orissa to the effect that a memorial be drawn up and submitted to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal on behalf of the domiciled Bengali community in Orissa praying for the redress of their grievances, which is followed by a copy of the memorial that has already been sent to Government. In this memorial the memorialists claim rights and privileges equal to those of the genuine Uriyas on the grounds that the domiciled Bengalis are loyal, that they have settled in Orissa for hundreds of years, that they held high posts under the Moghuls and the Marhattas, and that as a community, they are a body quite distinct from the people of Bengal.

67. Referring to the resolution of the Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, to take up the scheme for Free Primary education after those for College and Secondary education have been executed, the *Sambad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 31st December observes that the fate of free primary education as far as West Bengal is concerned, is doomed for some years to come as there are no funds at present available for the undertaking. The writer approvingly quotes in support of his observation the remark of Mr. Ellis, M. P., made at the New Reform Club, that "the Indian Government is clogged with paper transactions."

68. Referring to the remark made by the Hon'ble Justice Sarada Charan Mitra on an important occasion to the effect that poor parties who cannot pay for their pleaders and counsel are sometimes made to suffer for no fault of theirs, the *Sambad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 31st December suggests that it would be better if Government would undertake to see that evenhanded justice is done even to the poorest subject in the Empire by providing him with legal help, when the same Government assists the prosecution side with pleaders and counsel, and that such legal help is very necessary in cases where conviction may be followed by transportation or death.

69. Referring to the speech of Sir Andrew Fraser in the last St. Andrew's dinner the *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 31st December observes that if the official classes do not look upon the people with distrust and suspicion, the people will naturally look upon them with love and gratitude. As the fruits of western education, the people have learnt to demand an effective voice in the administration of their own affairs, to which the officials do not agree. The officials know well where the shoe pinches, and it is for them to remove the defect. They can do it easily by condescending to sacrifice a little of their powers and privileges. This is desirable in the interest of both the people and the Government. The people do not demand prompt and radical changes but simply gradual, though appreciable, alterations in the existing administrative system of British India.

70. The *Madras Mail* having remarked that the followers of Mr. Surendra Nath Banerjee want more and more privileges before proving their capacities for those already given, the *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 31st December makes the following observations:—

We think the questioning by the *Mail* of the capacity of the Indians for any responsible public post is quite uncalled for. In every branch of the public service to which the Indians have the good fortune to be appointed, they have justified the confidence placed on them. In the Executive service their capacities have been tried from the post of a Subdivisional Officer to that

URIYA AND
NAVASAMBAD,
Dec. 30th, 1903.

SAMBAD VAHIKA,
Dec. 31st, 1903.

SAMBAD VAHIKA,
Dec. 31st, 1903.

SAMBAD VAHIKA,
Dec. 31st, 1903.

SAMBAD VAHIKA,
Dec. 31st, 1903.

of the Hon'ble Member of the Board of Revenue; in the Judicial Department from the post of a Deputy Magistrate or a Munsif to that of the Chief Justice of the Hon'ble High Court; in the Account Branch from a Collector's or an Executive Engineer's Accountant to that of the Accountant-General of the Punjab; and in the Engineering Department, from the post of a Sub-Overseer to that of the Superintending Engineer. In the India Council too, the Indians have proved their capacity. What more does the *Madras Mail* want? Lord Morley appreciates the capacities of the Indians.

SAMVAD VAHIKA,
Dec. 31st, 1908.

71. The *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 31st December states that a mad jackal bit four men in Jajpur before being killed by the local Municipality.

SAMVAD VAHIKA,
Dec. 31st, 1908.

72. The *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 31st December mourns the death of Babu Khired Nath Mitra *alias* Hari Das, who had proved himself very useful to the Cuttack public by administering medicines for diseases that were on the whole cured effectively.

GARJATBASINI,
Jan. 2nd, 1909.

73. The *Garjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 2nd January states that the people of Keonjhar want a post-office at Talkai in that State in addition to the two newly-started post-offices at the Garh and at Champua.

GARJATBASINI
Jan. 2nd, 1909.

74. The *Garjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 2nd January states that the price of rice per rupee was 14 seers in Angul, 9 seers in Keonjhar, 12 seers in Mourbhanj and Nilgiri, 16 seers in Dhenkanal and Talcher and 17 seers and 13 chataks in Boad up to the 21st December last.

GARJATBASINI,
Jan. 2nd, 1909.

75. The *Garjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 2nd January regrets to observe that although the harvesting of paddy is nearly over in Bhadrak, the thieves are still busy in their nefarious calling in that subdivision.

GARJATBASINI,
Jan. 2nd, 1909.

76. The *Garjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 2nd January states that new rice sells at 9½ seers per rupee in Jajpur.

GARJATBASINI,
Jan. 2nd, 1909.

77. The Puri correspondent of the *Garjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 2nd January states that the residents of that town are glad to find the drains there constructed in an improved method, which, it is hoped, will improve the sanitary condition of the town. It is desirable that Government should watch carefully the sanitation of the town.

GARJATBASINI,
Jan. 2nd, 1909.

78. The *Garjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 2nd January states that the public health in Puri is not good, and that fever has made its appearance there.

GARJATBASINI,
Jan. 2nd, 1909.

79. The *Garjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 2nd January states that there has been no rain in Jajpur, and that the prospects of the rabi crop are not good.

SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI,
Jan. 2nd, 1909.

80. Referring to the revised rules of the Telegraph Department providing for only two classes of telegraphic messages, *viz.* "Express" and "Ordinary," the *Sambalpur Hitaishini* [Bamra] of the 2nd January observes that although the income of the Department will not be affected by this rule, the inconvenience of the public will be great.

SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI,
Jan. 2nd, 1909.

81. The *Sambalpur Hitaishini* [Bamra] of the 2nd January states that small-pox has already made its appearance at Kochinda in that State.

SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI,
Jan. 2nd, 1909.

82. Agreeing with its contemporary of the *Utkaldipika*, the *Sambalpur Hitaishini* [Bamra] of the 2nd January asserts that the immigration of coolies to Assam from the Orissa Garjats is due to the poverty and ignorance of the people. The people of that country, who are naturally averse to immigration, do not leave their homes unless compelled by necessity to do so.

83. The *Utkalvarta* [Calcutta] of the 2nd January approves of the bestowal of the title of "Mahamahopadhyaya" by the Government on Pandit Sadasib Misra of Puri and observes that by this gracious act Government has honoured the Pandit community of Orissa.

UTKALVARTA,
Jan. 2nd, 1909.

Bestowal of the title of *Mahamahopadhyaya* on Pandit Sadasib Misra approved.

84. The *Utkalvarta* [Calcutta] of the 2nd January states that rice sells at ten-and-a-half seers and paddy at twenty-one seers per rupee at Bhubaneswar.

UTKALVARTA,
Jan. 2nd, 1909.

Price of rice at Bhubaneswar.

UTKALVARTA,
Jan. 2nd, 1909.

85. The *Utkalvarta* [Calcutta] of the 2nd January states that paddy sells at twenty seers per rupee at Jhankar in the Cuttack district.

Price of paddy at Jhankar.

UTKALVARTA,
Jan. 2nd, 1909.

86. The *Utkalvarta* [Cuttack] of the 2nd January states that the Hon'ble Mr. Gokhale made an important observation on the subject of unrest in India in the course of a speech delivered in England on the 30th November last, just before his return from that island, which was to the effect that if Lord Morley's Reform Scheme would be in accordance with the hopes and aspirations of the Indians, and if the natives of India would thereby get a larger share in the administration of their country, the unrest in India would be greatly allayed, and that, at the same time, the modification of the Partition of Bengal in some way, and the release of those persons who have been punished for sedition simply on account of an expression of their opinions, would go a long way in removing all signs of unrest, and that unless the last two acts are accomplished, there can be no hope of complete peace. The writer observes that Mr. Gokhale represents the opinions of the Indian public in general, and hopes that Government will kindly consider it.

87. The Masumpur correspondent of the *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 2nd January states that the number of cows slaughtered by butchers in village Patna is very great, and that it would be better if Government would take some steps to have an enclosed wall or some other contrivance round the slaughter-ground, thereby assuaging the wounded feelings of the Hindu passers-by.

UTKALDIPIKA,
Jan. 2nd, 1909.

An enclosed slaughter-house very necessary at Masumpur.

88. The Kendrapara correspondent of the *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 2nd January states that the latrine-rate proposed to be imposed on the residents of that town has been the cause of many complaints, that the tax will prove oppressive to the poorer residents of the town, and that it is hoped that the authorities concerned will carefully consider the petitions of complaint already filed on the subject.

UTKALDIPIKA,
Jan. 2nd, 1909.

The latrine-rate a cause of complaint in Kendrapara.

89. The Kendrapara correspondent of the *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 2nd January states that thefts of paddy are frequent in the paddy-fields in that subdivision of the Cuttack district, and that this does not reflect any credit on the village chaukidars. The Presidents of Panchayats are requested to pay immediate attention to the matter.

UTKALDIPIKA,
Jan. 2nd, 1909.

Paddy thefts frequent in Kendrapara.

90. The Masumpur correspondent of the *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 2nd January states that a bullock belonging to a peasant in village Hirapur died of purging on 28th December 1908, that the discharges consisted of mucus and blood; and that the occurrence being attributed to poisoning, the cattle-owners are very uneasy.

UTKALDIPIKA,
Jan. 2nd, 1909.

Cattle-poisoning in the Cuttack district.

91. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 2nd January states that cold and fever prevail in the Cuttack town.

UTKALDIPIKA,
Jan. 2nd, 1909.

Public health in Cuttack.

92. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 2nd January thanks Mr. Govinda Prusti of Baxibazar, in the Cuttack town, for giving a dinner to the delegates of the Utkal Union Conference, assembled in that town in December last, and observes that Mr. Prusti maintained the old prestige of that town for hospitality by this pleasant act.

UTKALDIPIKA,
Jan. 2nd, 1909.

Mr. Govinda Prusti of Cuttack thanked.

UTKALDIPKA,
Jan. 2nd, 1909.

93. In giving a short account of the 24th sitting of the Indian National Congress, and its concomittant conferences, at Madras, the *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 2nd January observes, that though one party of Congressmen did not attend this annual gathering, it was a complete success, as many distinguished Indians, from all parts of the country, graced the meeting with their presence. The writer hopes that the work of the Congress will go on smoothly in the future.

UTKALDIPKA,
Jan. 2nd, 1909.

94. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 2nd January agrees with its contemporaries of the *Garjatbasini* and *Nilachala Samashar* that the monkeys have proved a pest in the Puri town, that the leading gentlemen of the town should apply to the Puri Municipality to kill a certain number of these animals without minding their foolish prejudices, and that the Municipality should take immediate steps in the matter.

UTKALDIPKA,
Jan. 2nd, 1909.

95. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 2nd January states that there is a tank named "Sahu" in village Ohakaleswar in the Domepara State in the Cuttack district, which is surrounded on four sides by bamboo jungle and which is full of fish. Nobody touches its water nor covets its fish. It is said that a body of fishermen once attempted to catch fish in this tank, but, strange to say, the fishermen, with their fishing apparatus, vanished into thin air. At any rate nothing was seen or heard of them.

RAJENDRA CHANDRA SASTRI,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 20th February, 1909.

REPORT (PART II)
ON
NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL
FOR THE
Week ending Saturday, 20th February 1909.

CONTENTS.

	Page.		Page.
I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.		(A)—General—	
Nil.		Sir Edward Baker on tour	52
		The partition and the rest of India	ib.
		Larger representation and more liberal employment	ib.
II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.		III.—LEGISLATION.	
(a)—Police—			
Punitive police near Belghoria	51	The crying need of the country	52
The Narai Dacoity case	ib.		
(b)—Working of the Courts—		IV.—NATIVE STATES.	
Nil.		Nil.	
(c)—Jails—		V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.	
Nil.		Nil.	
(d)—Education—		VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.	
Muhammadan education	51	The assault on Sir W. Lee-Warner by Kunja Lal Bhattacharjya	53
The Calcutta Madrassah	ib.	Ditto, ditto	ib.
(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration—		Assassination of Babu Ashutosh Biswas, Public Prosecutor at Alipore	ib.
Nil.		Ditto, ditto	ib.
(f)—Questions affecting the land—		Ditto, ditto	ib.
Nil.		The Alipore tragedy	54
(g)—Railways and Communications, including Canals and Irrigation—		The late tragedy	ib.
Nil.		The <i>Englishman</i> on the Alipore tragedy	ib.
		The assassination	55
		The Belghoria bomb outrage	ib.
		Anarchism still rampant in Bengal	ib.
		The Dacca Nawab's Garden House	56
		Lord Morley and Muhammadan representation	ib.

NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH COMPANIES IN BENGAL

1909

Week ending Saturday, 30th February 1909

CONTENTS

Page

I.—General

1. The position of the native-owned companies in Bengal at the end of 1908

II.—Statistics

1. The number of companies in Bengal at the end of 1908

III.—Native Capital

1. The amount of native capital invested in native-owned companies in Bengal at the end of 1908

IV.—The Growth of the Companies in Bengal

1. The number of companies in Bengal at the end of 1908

V.—Miscellaneous

1. The amount of native capital invested in native-owned companies in Bengal at the end of 1908

CONFIDENTIAL

Report of the Native-Owned English Companies in Bengal

for the year ending Saturday, 30th February 1909

II.—Statistics

(a) General

1. The number of companies in Bengal at the end of 1908

2. The number of companies in Bengal at the end of 1908

3. The number of companies in Bengal at the end of 1908

4. The number of companies in Bengal at the end of 1908

5. The number of companies in Bengal at the end of 1908

6. The number of companies in Bengal at the end of 1908

7. The number of companies in Bengal at the end of 1908

8. The number of companies in Bengal at the end of 1908

9. The number of companies in Bengal at the end of 1908

10. The number of companies in Bengal at the end of 1908

11. The number of companies in Bengal at the end of 1908

12. The number of companies in Bengal at the end of 1908

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

111. The *Bengalee* writes as follows in condemnation of any proposal to quarter punitive police in consequence of bomb outrages:—

Punitive police near Belghoria:

"In view of the attempted bomb outrage on Wednesday last, the idea of establishing a punitive police near Belghoria on the Eastern Bengal State Railway has been revived. We hope it will not be given effect to. We fail to see how the local people are in any way responsible. They have no part or share, no sort of sympathy whatsoever with these misdeeds. They are unable to help the Government; for they have not the faintest idea as to who the culprits are. Are innocent and inoffensive people to be punished for the crimes of a few miscreants? This is surely not the royal road to the restoration of contentment among the people. We have no hesitation in saying that if the police had shown greater aptitude and greater detective ability, the perpetrators would long ago have been traced. The zone within which these anarchic activities are confined is limited. It extends to within two miles between Belghoria and Sodepur. If a body of able detective police had been at work here from the first attempt, one of two things would have happened, either the attempts would not have been renewed, or the culprits would have been discovered. Is it too late to follow this suggestion even now? In any case, we hope the mistake of quartering a punitive police will not be committed."

BENGALER,
14th Feb. 1909.

112. The *Indian Empire* states that the proverbially incompetent police in this country are trying to show their competence by conducting a most oppressive campaign of

The Naria Dacoity case:

house searches and arrests in connection with the Naria dacoity case in the Faridpur district. Already a good number of young men have been put in *haji*, bail being invariably refused though on what grounds is not known. The police very often arrest persons on the merest suspicion and have in their possession none but the weakest of evidence against them. Whatever evidence is gathered or manufactured is done afterwards. The Magistrate who rejects bail applications consequently puts in the police an absolute confidence which is extremely bad.

INDIAN EMPIRE,
14th Feb. 1909.

(d)—Education.

113. The *Bengalee* is on principle opposed to denominational colleges for general education. Such colleges not only

Muhammadian education.

serve no purpose which would not be equally or better served by mixed colleges, but suffer from disadvantages peculiar to themselves. A denominational college, even if it does not directly encourage bigotry or fanaticism, will be an object lesson in exclusiveness, and exclusiveness, in the particular circumstances of the case, is bigotry differently writ.

BENGALER,
14th Feb. 1909.

114. The *Mussalman* strongly condemns the nominations that have been recently made for posts carrying high salaries on the staff of the Calcutta Madrasah and hopes that

The Calcutta Madrasah:

the Director of Public Instruction will use his own discretion in granting his sanction to the recommendations which "have been unscrupulously made." The journal has been almost daily receiving numerous and serious complaints against the authorities of this institution, and it would be glad if the Government, in co-operation with the leading members of the community, institute without delay an enquiry into its affairs. Maulvi Ahmad has been a great offender, and his appointment as Officiating Principal is regarded as but adding insult to injury. "If the Government wanted to exasperate the Muhammadian community, it could not have made a better selection".

MUSALMAN,
12th Feb. 1909.

(h)—General.

115. As Sir Edward Baker will be visiting many parts of Bengal in the course of the next fortnight, the *Bengalee* draws

Sir Edward Baker on tour.

His Honour's attention to the great grievance of the septic tanks. The river water is more or less polluted by them along the

BENGALER,
14th Feb. 1909.

entire area covered with thriving and prosperous Municipal towns, and as thousands of people drink this water, there are innumerable deaths every year by regular outbreaks of cholera. The fluid matter of the septic tanks should be diverted to the fields and all considerations involving special interests should be superseded on account both of public health and the religious sentiments of the people to whom the river is an object of deep veneration.

Malarious fever also is a preventable disease well within human control.

"If Sir Edward Baker will signalize his administration by effective measures for the prevention of malarious fever, our people will regard him as one of the greatest benefactors of our race. Intimately associated with the arrangements for the prevention of malarious fever is the question of an adequate water-supply in the rural areas. Last year over large areas in the Burdwan and Birbhum districts there was a water-famine. The tanks dried up and the people scooped out little holes, the water of which soon became polluted, and many died of cholera. May we appeal to His Honour to look into this matter and do the needful?"

BENGALUR,
16th Feb. 1909.

116. The *Bengalee* quotes a passage from the speech on the Partition of Bengal by Hari Chand Rai, a Sindh representative at the Madras Congress, and takes advantage of the subject to harp on this old theme:—"We ask once

again—as we have asked so often—is it wise and statesmanlike, in view of the universal Indian sentiment on the subject, to stereotype a grievance which is the root cause of the present unrest? We ask further if it is morally right to embody as a part of the permanent administrative arrangements of the country a system which, to quote the words of Lord Merley, went wholly and decisively against the wishes of the majority of the people concerned? Let it be borne in mind that what is morally wrong cannot be politically expedient; and already the truth of this saying in relation to the partition of Bengal is manifesting itself in a thousand different ways."

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
16th Feb. 1909.

117. In support of its plea for a larger representation and more liberal employment of Indians in the administration of India, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* draws attention to the advantages gained by the Filipinos under American rule. Lord Curzon talked of the "unexampled liberality" of the British Government in the matter of employing educated Indians in the public services of their motherland. But although the people of the Philippine Islands have only very recently come under American rule, they are far better off in this respect than Indians under the British Government.

III.—LEGISLATION.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
16th Feb. 1909.

118. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* declares that the most crying need of the country is the reform of the criminal laws and their administration. They are the real benefactors of the Indian nation, who can help them in this respect. The Viceroy and the provincial rulers are, however, the only parties who can protect the people from the evils of what is called "Police rule," which is sitting like a dreadful nightmare upon their breasts; but, unfortunately, they have to see things through official spectacles. Besides, the bugbear of so-called "prestige" stands in the way. It is thus very hard to convince the responsible authorities of the disastrous character of the system of criminal administration that prevails in this country. It is, indeed, no exaggeration to say that the most effective way to restore the confidence of the entire people in the good intentions of Government is to give them better criminal laws and sympathetic administration thereof, and save them from the iron grip of the police. The higher authorities have scarcely any idea of the feeling of dread of police raids which prevails from one end of the country to the other. Government itself has been misled by the police to commit acts for which it has had to repent afterwards. If subordinate officials were punished when they put Government in a false position, this evil might be checked to a considerable extent. But the frail commodity named "prestige" stand in the way. What happens generally is that, in their anxiety for the repression of crime, the authorities clean forget the other side of the question.

Should the police be allowed to be more anxious for the protection of society than society itself? Does it not furnish a good ground for doubting their motive? Should not the authorities now show some anxiety for the protection of society from the overzeal of the police? The revival of Regulation 3 of 1818 and the deportation of people under that barbarous law has, it is needless to say, added new terror to the situation.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

119. The *Hindoo Patriot* writes:—

The assault on Sir W. Lee-Warner by Kunja Lall Bhattacharjya.

"The small incident that took place about a month ago on a public road in front of the Athenaeum Club in London, and in which Sir W. Lee-Warner and a Bengali student named Kunja Lall Bhattacharjya are mixed up and the particulars of which have since appeared, will, we are afraid, lend to the formation of a mountain of a mole-hill and be given greater importance than what actually can be attached to it. We think Sir Lee-Warner ought not to have pursued the course which he is reported to have done. He was badly advised to approach the Home Secretary with the prayer for the expulsion of Bhattacharjya and other suspected students from England. Although Sir Lee-Warner had the support of the present head of the London Police, who was also the head of the Bengal Police for many years and who accompanied him to the Home Office, still Mr. Gladstone was unable to accede to the request and pointed out that it could not be done without Parliamentary sanction, and further it would mean the expulsion of 55,000 political refugees living in and carrying on their business in England. The Home Secretary's decision was quite in accord with the existing laws of the country, and he could not but act up to their provisions. It would have been much better on the part of Sir Lee-Warner, if, instead of attempting the expulsion of this Bengali youth, he had taken steps to report his conduct to the authorities of the school to which he belonged; and some sort of punishment in the shape of school discipline would have produced better results. We do not for a moment approve the conduct and behaviour of Kunja Lall Bhattacharjya towards Sir Lee-Warner, notwithstanding the provocation he received from the latter; and if he had grievances against Sir Lee-Warner, he could have got them redressed by other means than what he adopted. Lord Morley would have done ample justice to him if His Lordship had been approached. Bhattacharjya should have kept his temper within control, if, for no other reason, at least for the sake of the proverbial mildness of Hindu Brahmins to which community he belongs. Equally Sir Lee-Warner should not have given way to rage, and should have shown better consideration to this young Indian which is naturally expected by him and others in a foreign land, and especially from those Englishmen who were in India before. We shall be glad to hear that the curtain has been dropped over the matter."

HINDOO PATRIOT,
10th Feb. 1900.

120. Referring to the decision of the Magistrate in the case against the assailant of Sir W. Lee-Warner, the *Bengales* is of opinion that if the case had been tried in India, the accused would infallibly have been sent to jail for a long period. In England, however, Magistrates are not hampered by executive considerations and they decide according to law and justice. "What a difference between English Judges and Magistrates and those who perform similar duties here!"

BENGAL,
14th Feb. 1900.

121. The *Hindoo Patriot* is shocked at the assassination of Babu Ashutosh Biswas, Public Prosecutor, at Alipore. The news of the heinous deed has been received with profound sorrow and utmost abhorrence of the dastardly deed is being freely expressed in all quarters.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
11th Feb. 1900.

122. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* is horrified at the tragic death of Babu Ashutosh Biswas. It is feared that this incident will tend only to strengthen the position of the enemies of the people and cause serious mischief to the community at large, though they have nothing to do with the crime.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
12th Feb. 1900.

123. The *Indian Mirror* cannot adequately express its feelings on reading the account of the cold blooded assassination of Babu Ashutosh Biswas, the Public Prosecutor of Alipore. This outrage is a proof that anarchism is still alive in spite of the

INDIAN MIRROR,
12th Feb. 1900.

rigorous measures which have been adopted. No one can now venture to insinuate that the repressive measures, which have been adopted, are not justified by the circumstances. In spite of the Explosives Act, the revolver is still in the hand of the assassin to be used when he gets an opportunity to carry out his hellish purpose. Notwithstanding the new newspaper Act, such a venomous sheet as the *Yugantar* is still making its stealthy appearance. It is curious that the abominable deed, perpetrated at Alipore on Wednesday, should have followed not long after the reported appearance of the *Yugantar* at Chandernagor. "When we think of the four attempts on the life of Sir Andrew Fraser, of the outrage on Mr. Allen at Goalundo, of the assassination of Mrs. and Miss Kennedy at Muzaffarpur, of the murder of Inspector Nundo Lal Banerji in Calcutta, of the tragedy enacted within the precincts of the Alipore Jail, of the attacks on Mr. Hickinbotham and Mr. Campsie, and, lastly, of this foul deed in a crowded thoroughfare at Alipore, we cannot help feeling that the Anarchical movement presents a far graver outlook than either the Government or the public has hitherto believed." Whatever may be done in this case, the journal thinks it is of the utmost importance that the Alipore case should be brought to a speedy termination.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
12th Feb. 1909.

124. The *Hindoo Patriot* observes that the assassination of Babu Ashutosh Biswas opens a new chapter in the history of anarchical crimes. That it is the continuation of

The Alipore tragedy.

the diabolical series of murders under the frenzied impulse of anarchical fanaticism, there cannot be any room for doubt, and unless such murderous propensities are arrested in time, terrible consequences may ensue in the future. The situation is becoming very critical and the country will be placed in great peril if things are permitted to continue in this way.

"There is a limit to human patience, and when it is exhausted and becomes unbearable, it would only give rise to uncontrollable actions. The Government of the country has shown abundant patience and has also given ample opportunity to the anarchists to mend their ways and desist from doing further mischief. And if after the warnings given, they do not pay any heed to them they must be prepared for the consequences that necessarily follow drastic measures. We shall not be surprised therefore if any such measure is adopted. The firmness of the Government ought to have convinced the anarchists that it is not going to yield an inch under pressure, and when such is the firm attitude of the Government which it has been forced to assume on account of the folly of some miscreants, it is sheer madness to entertain any hope of obtaining any concession by intimidation. We should not also be surprised if after this tragic event we begin to lose the sympathy of our friends, both here and in England. Their desertion at this critical juncture will drift us into the bottom of the sea. It would be very difficult to secure their sympathy again."

BENGALUR,
12th Feb. 1909.

125. The *Bengales* thinks it no exaggeration to say that the assassination of Babu Ashutosh Biswas has convulsed Indian society, and that in every home the death of the

The late tragedy.

distinguished lawyer is mourned as a public calamity. It seems to the journal that this was a purposeless act of assassination, and it appeals to the younger generation to create amongst themselves a body of public opinion which will condemn with clear and unmistakable emphasis, all acts of lawlessness and violence. They ought to bear in mind that the path of national regeneration lies through righteousness and that the struggle in which the country is engaged is one in which those who observe the moral laws will alone be triumphant.

BENGALUR,
12th Feb. 1909.

126. Criticising the "*Englishman's*" comments on the recent assassination, the *Bengales* writes:—

The "*Englishman*" on the Alipore tragedy.

"'A Government,' says our contemporary in the pursuit of his old and favourite policy, 'possesses, or it should possess, enormous resources and it should not be beyond its power to throw a searchlight upon certain dark spots.' We quite agree that the Government should possess resources enough for the purpose; but these resources are not mainly nor always physical and do not consist merely in methods of repression, but are largely moral. And for the successful working out of a moral purpose, time is an important consideration. The reform scheme, we are confident, will do more to kill anarchism than any methods of repression; but time enough must elapse for the purpose. In the meantime there is

no doubt that the authorities must deal with crime when crime is committed, and nobody desires that it should not deal quite effectively with it. Only let an adequate measure of the situation be taken and let not the *Englishman* and others complicate the real issue by introducing extraneous elements. Fortunately, at this moment Bengal has a ruler in whom she has confidence and who can be relied upon to do the needful. Sir Edward Baker is too level headed an administrator to allow himself to be misled. He will see what most of us have long noticed, that these crimes are committed, not because the Government is not sufficiently powerful, but, in the first place, because the individuals who commit them are a desperate lot who have no regard for the consequences of their action, and secondly because the police are inefficient. The fact that a murder was committed inside the Alipore Jail and that this last crime was perpetrated within the compound of the Police Court itself is proof positive that the Police are inefficient to a degree. That, we are glad to find, is the same comment of the *Statesman*. "The murder in open day light and in a public place of Babu Ashutosh Biswas appears to show that in vigilance and determination the Police are inferior to those foes of society against whom they are, or ought to be, its guardians." Likewise in the matter of the latest bomb-throwing, we are able to testify from personal knowledge that only a short time before the bomb was thrown at the train which was carrying Mr. Hume, the whole way from Calcutta to Barrackpore was lined by policemen who stood a hundred yards apart. Had these policemen continued in their places for an hour longer the bomb could not have been thrown or, if it was thrown, the thrower would have been arrested on the spot. The conclusion to which we are forced is that there are two things and only two in which the bulk of our policemen are past masters; in extorting confession and in harassing the innocent. In detection of crime as well as in its prevention they leave almost everything to be desired."

127. The *Telegraph* declares that the assassination of Babu Ashutosh

The assassination.

Biswas has been received with horror and indignation by the entire community and a universal wail has been raised for retributive justice and the "extermination, root and branch, of the Upas tree of anarchy" that is infecting society with its hateful poison. It is the bounden duty of society itself to co-operate with the Government in this matter. Simply to weep and mourn for the loss of the man who died at his post, will not bring about the desired end. Social forces must be arrayed against any further attempts by anarchists.

TELEGRAPH,
19th Feb. 1909.

128. The *Hindoo Patriot* thinks it significant that on the very evening

The Belghoria Bomb outrage.

Babu Ashutosh Biswas was assassinated, another bomb outrage should have been attempted on the Eastern Bengal State Railway lines near Belghoria. What strikes the journal as being most curious is how, inspite of the stringent measures that have been adopted lately, firearms and other combustible materials for the preparation of bombs are secured by the authors of these outrages. That the people living on either side of the railway lines between Sealdah and Naihati have no sympathy with these outrages, is evident from the active steps and combined action they have already taken in this direction.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
19th Feb. 1909.

129. From the fact that the Viceroy's special train had passed through

Anarchism still rampant in Bengal, the bomb outrage on a passenger train passing through the same station, the *Indian Mirror* thinks it evident that the anarchist movement has still many emissaries abroad who are determined to continue their frantic careers. One thing more is evident, that no man, European or Indian, is safe from the dagger, the bullet or the bomb of the Anarchist. The situation has become intolerable, and determined efforts on the part of the Government and the people are necessary to stamp out this diabolical movement, whose only creed seems to be killing for killing's sake. The journal is pleased to find that public opinion has declared itself unmistakably in favour of the speedy trial of all anarchist cases. The chief danger of prolonged trials is that while they continue, they inflame the imagination of all who are in sympathy with anarchism. It is necessary, therefore, that justice should come swiftly in such cases.

INDIAN MIRROR,
19th Feb. 1909.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
15th Feb. 09.

130. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* publishes a telegram from its Dacca correspondent to the effect that the Government of Eastern Bengal is going to purchase the Nawab's garden house called Shabag at an enormous price to liquidate his debt. This transaction and the "hole and corner fashion" in which it is sought to be effected is regarded by the journal as a public scandal, and it hopes that the matter will attract the attention of Lords Morley and Minto before it is too late. The property should be sold at a public auction to the highest bidder, and if the Government wants it for public purposes there is no reason why it should not be acquired as is done in every case. "Are the people to take it that this is due to the Nawab's public or private services?"

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
15th Feb. 1909.

131. Commenting on Lord Morley's reply to Mr. Amir Ali's deputation and the *Times* article on it, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* regrets that the real point in the controversy has not struck Lord Morley.

"As we have been urging in these columns over and over again, the civic interests of both Hindus and Mussalmans being the same, it is absolutely unnecessary that there should be exclusive electorates for any particular community in India. Is there any subject, coming up before the Legislative Councils for disposal, in which all communities of India are not equally interested? Can a Hindu member injure Mussalman interests or a Mussalman member injure Hindu interests without at the same time injuring the interests of their respective communities? That being so, what does it matter whether a Hindu or a Mussalman is elected? All that we need is that there should be able men in our Councils; but exclusive Muhammadan or Hindu electorates will not serve this purpose. Hence mixed constituencies are not absolutely necessary."

"There is no doubt that mutual relations will be very much embittered and new sources of danger opened if preference be given to one community over another on the ground of so-called political importance."

OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL
BRANCH,
41, PARK STREET,
The 20th February 1909.

G. C. DENHAM,
Spl. Asst. to the Deputy Insp.-Genl.
of Police, Crime and Railways, Bengal.